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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1947.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer,

16th September, 1948.

Council Offices,
"WOODLEIGH",
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

There was a slight fall in the number of live-births during the year. There was also a fall of five in the total number of deaths (seventy-two compared with seventy-seven in 1946) and, as in previous years, the greatest proportion of deaths was from diseases associated with the older age groups.

Local Industries. These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo, Ltd., in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The factory went into full production at the beginning of 1946, and by the end of 1947, a total of 531 persons were employed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The rainfall during the summer months being fairly heavy, the combined yields of the springs and surplus water from the Royal Air Force borehole on Bowes Moor maintained a good supply of water throughout the year, but due to the prolonged autumn drought, it was necessary to curtail the water supply at night from October to November.

The analysis of the water was satisfactory.

The Ministry of Health have approved the sinking of a new borehole, and it is hoped that the boring will be commenced during 1948. If the anticipated yield is realized, it should be sufficient to overcome the present shortage and provide ample reserve for future developments.

The fencing in at the existing reservoir is also provided for in the approved scheme. I recommend that this precaution be carried out as soon as possible, to avoid any possible risk of contamination of the water supply.

A scheme for laying a larger main from the reservoir to the town and relaying certain mains in the town, has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Rivers and Streams. The Tees and Percy Beck are clear of any fouling or pollution. Any suspected pollution is investigated without delay.

Refuse Tip. The refuse tip, which is well removed from the town and the nearest dwelling house, has been levelled during the year.

Any rat infestation is quickly dealt with by the Rodent Officer, who makes regular inspections and gives periodical maintenance treatment.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.- The Sewage Works are working satisfactorily. New filter arms have been fixed during the year.

The effluent is satisfactory as shown by analysis of samples taken by the Council and other authorities.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, in conjunction with the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories' Engineers, are preparing an experimental scheme for the treatment of the effluent from the Penicillin Factory at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Closet Accommodation. Only twenty-one pail closets remain in the area. Most of these are in old properties already confirmed by the Ministry of Health for clearance. The number of pail closets should shortly be reduced as the tenants from these properties are rehoused and the houses closed or demolished.

Five privies remain the same. These are on outlying farms and cannot, at the present time, be connected to the sewers.

All properties in the town are supplied with regulation dustbins, which are emptied twice a week.

Housing. Twenty-six council and three private houses were completed and occupied during the year. A further twenty-eight council houses and two private houses are in course of construction and nearing completion.

Land has been acquired in Victoria Road for the erection of twelve key workers' houses. Tenders have been invited.

Land in Station Road has been acquired and the roads and sewers laid to accommodate a further one hundred and two houses.

Additional land in Victoria Road and Green Lane will be purchased for a further one hundred and fifty houses.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	14	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	17	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	6	1
Total ...	78	37	1

Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars.	Number Found	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences - Insufficient	1	1

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork. - Nil.

Common Lodging Houses. There is only one at 23, Bridgegate, which is kept in a fairly clean condition, and certain sanitary defects are receiving attention.

Smoke Abatement. There has been only one complaint of smoke nuisance reported during the year and action is being taken to abate the nuisance.

Rats & Mice Destruction. The Council employ a full-time Rodent Officer in conjunction with the two adjoining Rural District Councils.

Regular surveys and inspections for rat infestation of the district are made.

During the year, the following treatments have been carried out:-

The whole of the Sewers in the area, the Refuse Tip and Sewage Disposal Works and other council property, the Central Slaughther-house and certain domestic and private premises.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Ice-Cream. Seven premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, four retailers drawing supplies from outside the area and three are manufacturer-retailers.

All premises have been regularly inspected and although the three manufacturers are aware of the Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947, none of their premises are yet equipped to comply with these regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. The register comprises seven Milksellers (retail and wholesale producers) of which five have cowsheds in the area.

The premises are regularly inspected. Two of the retailers sell pasteurised milk treated outside the area.

Meat. A Veterinary Surgeon is appointed under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

Summary of Work carried out by the Meat Inspector during the year.

	Inspected		Weight condemned.
Cattle	1,223	Beef (lbs.)	22,873
Calves	258	Veal (lbs.)	1,543
Sheep	3,588	Mutton (lbs.)	1,252
Pigs	48	Pork (lbs.)	345
	5,117		26,013
Corned Beef (lbs.)	180,588		414
Offal	-		11,360

Slaughtering. All slaughtering is now centralized in one slaughter-house and this is situated on the premises of Messrs. Thompson and Forster, Flatts Lane. The present premises, although they are the only ones at all adequate for the purpose in the town, are nevertheless structurally unsatisfactory. Amongst other defects, beef carcases have at present to be hung next to diseased meat, since there is insufficient height in the cooling room for these carcases to be hung there.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which summarizes the work done by his department, includes visits and inspections made by myself in conjunction with the Inspector with respect to infectious diseases, dairies, cowsheds and other cases occurring under the Public Health Acts.

	Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after notice.
Dwelling Houses & Schools (Structural Defects).	41	-	21
Dairies and Milkshops.	-	-	-
Bakehouses	-	-	-
Ashpits and Privies	-	-	-
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	2	-	2
Water Closets	6	-	6
House Drainage (Defective Traps	-	-	-
House Drainage (No disconnections from sewers	-	-	-
House Drainage (Other faults	44	-	44
Water Supply	6	-	6
Pigsties	-	-	-
Other Nuisances	1	-	1
Dustbins	42	1	43
Pail Closets	-	-	-
TOTALS	142	1	123

Precautions against Infectious Disease. Two houses disinfected after infectious disease and two sets of bedding destroyed.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	559
Population (estimated)	4,230
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,291
Rateable Value	£27,445
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£104: 0: 6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			Total	Male	Female
Live-births ...	Legitimate	90	82	42	40
	Illegitimate		8	6	2

Live-birth Rate. 21.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Corresponding rate for England and Wales - 20.5, and for 148 smaller town (resident populations, 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) - 22.2.

			Total	Male	Female
Still-births. ...	Legitimate	1	1	1	0
	Illegitimate		0	0	0

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 of the population - 0.24.

Corresponding rate for England and Wales - 0.50 and for 148 smaller towns - 0.54.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	72	38	34

Death-Rate per 1,000 of population - 17.0

For England and Wales - 12.0

For 148 smaller towns - 11.9

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.

		Male	Female
Total	...	1	3
Legitimate	...	1	3
Illegitimate	...	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants, per 1,000 live-births	44
England and Wales	41
148 smaller towns	36

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Cancer (all types)	5	3	8
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	6	8
Heart Diseases	19	6	25
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
Diarrhoea under two years	1	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	-	1
Nephritis	2	4	6
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other violent causes	-	1	1
All other causes	1	7	8
	38	34	72

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A total of seventy-three notifications was made during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during the year.

			1945	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever	...	...	11	7	2
Diphtheria	...	...	-	5	-
Measles	...	...	11	5	50
Whooping Cough	...	...	9	-	18
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	-	-	1

Diphtheria. It is satisfactory to note that no cases of this disease occurred in the town throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever. The incidence of scarlet fever has continued to fall to the record low level of two cases during this year.

Measles. There was a mild epidemic of measles, the greater number of cases occurring in the months of February and March.

There were no deaths from the disease.

Infantile Paralysis. Two cases were notified during the period of the severe national epidemic. One of these was a suspected case of anterior polioencephalitis, the patient being a youth aged seventeen, **resident at the Institution.**

This patient unfortunately died after admission to hospital, but reports from the hospital indicated that this was a case of meningitis though the type of infection was not discovered.

Infantile Paralysis continued.

The other case was one of anterior poliomyelitis, the patient being a girl aged fourteen. This patient subsequently made a good recovery with very slight disability resulting from the disease.

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in Age Groups.

	Under one year.	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Measles	1	4	10	31	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	2	4	3	8	-	1	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year, facilities were available for immunisation of children under five years at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held on alternate Wednesdays. Facilities were also available for children under fifteen years for immunisation free of charge, at their doctor's surgery.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

	Age at date of final injection.		Total under 15.
	0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation in the Authority's area, during the above twelve months.	41	10	51

Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection - 68.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.								
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.								
Age at 31.12.47 i.e. born in yr.	Under 1 yr. 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-1942	10 - 14 1933-1937	Total under 15.
Number immunised	5	28	41	44	22	186	160	486
Estimated mid-year child population 1947	Children under five. 342					Children 5 - 14. 596		938

	0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 15 yrs.
Percentage of child population who have completed a full course of immunisation.	40%	58%

There was a decrease in the number of children immunised, compared with the previous year. There is a certain amount of apathy on the part of parents in the matter, fostered perhaps, by the fact that there have been so few cases of diphtheria in the town during recent years.

Tuberculosis - New cases (Form A) and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 to 35	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
35 to 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 to 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	1	2	-	4	2	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. A grant is made to his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals. There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children in the district.

The Urban District Council is a contributor to the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board Scheme for cases of infectious disease and these cases are sent into one of their hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

The Public Assistance Hospital is the only Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, etc.

Ambulance Facilities. These consist of motor ambulances for infectious cases provided by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, and a modern, well equipped motor ambulance belonging to the Council, for accident and other urgent hospital cases. Half the cost of this latter vehicle was paid for by public subscription, the other half being paid by the Urban District Council.

During the year, the Council's Ambulance conveyed 251 cases and covered 10,296 miles, as follows:-

Residents of Barnard Castle - 209 cases involving 8,339 miles.

Non-residents - 42 cases involving 1,957 miles.

Nursing Arrangements. There is a local Nursing Association consisting of a voluntary ladies Committee. Two qualified nurses are provided, and the public can have their services on payment of a small fee. They are available in all surgical or medical cases, but not in notifiable infectious cases.

Nursing Arrangements - continued.

The County Council assists the Association by annual grants towards midwifery. The ordinary expenses are met by the Association.

The District Nurses are practising midwives in the district.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Fortnightly sessions of the Infant Welfare Clinic and weekly sessions of the School Clinic are held in the Trinity Methodist School-rooms, Barnard Castle, under the County Council Scheme. Attendances at the School Clinic were small.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1948.